

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A sticking apparatus, comprising:

a label supply unit including a label feed-out reel mounted on a first mounting plate;

a drive unit mounted on a second mounting plate;

a label sticking unit which holds a label and is arranged so as to hold a predetermined label and to be movable in the direction away from/closer to an adherend, said label sticking unit being attached to said drive unit; and

a space maintaining device which ensures that for ensuring a distance between the label held by the label sticking unit and a surface of the adherend to be stuck with the label of the adherend to is within a preset distance,

wherein said space maintaining device is mounted on [[the]] said label sticking unit for detecting the distance such that the distance between the label held by the label sticking unit and a surface of the adherend to be stuck with the label is detected, and

wherein when said the detected distance reaches to said the preset distance, said space maintaining device instructs the sticking apparatus to stop movement stops moving of the label sticking unit,

wherein said label sticking unit and said space maintaining device are movable relative to said first and second mounting plates, and

wherein said first and second mounting plates are stationary.

2. (Currently Amended) The sticking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said space maintaining device includes a contact member that changes a position thereof of said space maintaining device when ~~the same~~ said contact member comes into contact with said surface side to be stuck with label and a single sensor for detecting a position change of the contact member.
3. (Original) The sticking apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said sensor allows the label sticking unit to move until a distance between said label and the surface to be stuck with label reaches to a preset distance, and when said distance reaches to the preset distance, detects a position of the contact member and outputs a signal to stop moving of the label sticking unit.
4. (Original) The sticking apparatus according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said contact member includes a roller capable of rolling on said surface side to be stuck with label.
5. (New) The sticking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the label is held by said label sticking unit by suction and is released by blowing air.
6. (New) The sticking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said driving unit includes a cylinder connected to two air supply sources.

7. (New) The sticking apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein said roller is mounted on an L-shaped arm which moves pivotally in accordance pressure on said roller, and

wherein an upper end of said arm is detected by said single sensor and is biased in a detected position by a spring.